

Missouri Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Missouri Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Thursday, April 22, 2021, 9:00 am In Person/Virtual Meeting

Members in Attendance:

Name	City	Category	Term	Present
Carl Johnson	Leavenworth, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2023	Yes
John Bishop	Atchison, KS	Recreation	2023	Yes
Neil Coufal	Troy, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2021	Yes
Stephen Glaser	Atchison, KS	Industry/Commerce (cc)	2023	No
Jeffrey Grossenbacher	Bern, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2023	No
Chris Griffin (Chair)	Troy, KS	WRAPs	2021	Yes
Lisa Montgomery	Reserve, KS	Sac & Fox Nation of Missouri in KS & NE	2023	No
Joel Mahnken (VC)	Leavenworth, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	2021	Yes
Brett Neibling	Highland, KS	Agriculture 2	2023	No
Mike Stec	Atchison, KS	Public Water Supply 2	2023	No
Luke Terry	Robinson, KS	Fish and Wildlife	2021	No
Michelle Wirth	Kansas City, KS	Public Water Supply 3	2021	Yes
Vacant		Agriculture Industry	2021	No

Others in attendance:

Name	Representing	Name	Representing
Andy Lyon	KDA-DOC	Dave Jones	KDA-DOC
Doug Schemm	KDA-DWR	Niki Tollefson	BR Co. Con. Dist.
Kirk Tjelmeland	KWO		

- I) **Welcome/Introduction:** Chris started the meeting at 9:05 am having participants on the GoTo meeting introduce themselves followed by introductions around the room.
- II) **RAC Business:**
- Review of March 4th meeting notes: Chris asked if everyone had read the notes and if there were any edits or corrections. Hearing none, John moved the notes be approved as written and Michelle seconded it. There was no additional discussion and the notes were approved unanimously.
 - Missouri River Subcommittee:** Michelle mentioned that MRRIC is still meeting virtually and that the Fish Working group is needing additional members. The group is still working on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). She also mentioned renewal for the dredging permits is up for consideration and according to 2019 bathymetric surveys there is a portion of the river that has actually a 2' aggradation of material. There was mention of the two USACE webinars, one on the [current flood protection](#) and the other on the Missouri River [2021 forecast](#).

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- c. **Ag Subcommittee:** Neil mentioned that planting is starting but probably not this morning with some frost in the ground. He also mentioned the work near Elwood on the Levee. Tj offered that the USACE Project Manager was not able to attend this meeting but we'll try and get him at the next RAC meeting to explain the project and process.
- d. **Education Subcommittee:** John mentioned they had gotten off to a good start with a couple virtual meetings with people from around the state and since then there hasn't been any other meetings. Tj offered that one of the other RACs was questioning this as well and he will check on this.

III) Conservation District Field Trial Money – DOC: Andy Lyon led this discussion and the short video is located [here](#). He said the Conservation Districts are doing a great job and that this money is intended to develop visible projects focused on water resource concerns. Each county has the opportunity to apply for this money that has a great deal of flexibility built in. There are several possible uses in the video however Andy encouraged the Conservation Districts to work with its conservation partners, such as the RACs, for potential projects. Niki asked if this \$3,500 would be an annual funding since some of the practices may require an extended time to evaluate their success. Andy replied that this will probably not be an every year occurrence however there is a 3-year completion time on this. DOC is using this to help producers look at multiple issues including economic impact on their operation. Chris appreciated the idea of soliciting ideas from the RACs for use of the funds. She was wondering where the funds came from and a discussion of long-term funding followed. Andy mentioned the funds came from FY 2021 Water Resource cost share funds. Conservation Districts need to apply for the funding by May 21st however the plans don't have to be locked in at that point. There was some discussion on cover crops and Neil offered that cover crops are not the cure all and that there are elements that the cover crops can't provide that the plants need. He thought there were places and times to use them. As requested by Chris and Michelle, the video and our RAC Goals will be set out to the RAC members to solicit ideas for these funds.

IV) Proof of Concept (POC) from GMD 3: Tj led this discussion with the current information on the POC provided [here](#). He explained that the current situation is that the GMD had applied for a term permit from DWR to move 6,000 gallons of Missouri River water from a spot near WaterOne to one location in Wichita County KS and the other to a location in Colorado. By statute, since the water is moving out of state the Attorney General of Colorado has to make a ruling on this before the permit is issued. The Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) and the Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT) have stated the actions that will be taken, meet with their approval. KDWPT requires that the water be filtered to remove invasive fish species and also chemically treated to remove zebra mussels. There was some discussion on the merits of the POC. Chris ask Doug if he would like to add anything and he mentioned it could be a couple months until DWR gets word back and complete the process. Carl asked about continued approval of permits and Doug said they work with everyone on these and as long as the request adheres to the regulations DWR will approve them. Chris would still like to get a joint meeting with this group and work through regional water issues.

- V) **Budget Information/Webinar:** Tj led this discussion while showing memo located [here](#) with the target dates for certain budget related items. A budget webinar is planned for April 30th from 11-noon that will provide more information to RAC members with other agencies providing input as well. A budget subcommittee will meet and help guide the discussion of the budget memo crafting. This information will be used by RAC members to develop a memo related to the FY 2023 budget recommendations in late July or early August. This memo will be sent to the KWA budget committee to help them develop final budget recommendations by September.
- VI) **Review of the State Water Plan Regional Section:** This discussion was led by Tj with a review of the current draft Missouri Regional section. There was some discussion about the Goals and Action Plan portion. Goal #5 will be presented at the April 26th KWA meeting and Carl will be available to provide any additional input. The draft section will continue to be modified so that it will be placed in the final State Water Plan scheduled for completion in August of this year. There was some discussion on the House Water Committee and a [chart](#) developed by the Revisors Office to assist the committee was displayed. The House Water Committee is expected to have a short interim session around the middle of August.
- VII) **RAC Membership:** Tj led this discussion showing the Regional map with the committee members and their term expiration dates. The 2021 terms will be up the end of June so current members are encouraged to reapply to be considered to serve on the RAC. There was additional discussion about who and how to recruit new members, Martin Simon will be contacted again to see if he would like to serve on the RAC. Michelle suggested contacting Chamber of Commerce folks and Chris mentioned that Niki might have a couple people interested in the RAC. Tj will send the information to Niki to pass along to those folks.
- VIII) **Other Issues or Agency Updates:** There were none.
- IX) **Public Comments:** There were none.
- X) **Messages to the Kansas Water Authority:** There were none.
- XI) **Upcoming Meetings:**
- KWA Meeting, April 26th 9 am virtual
 - KWO budget webinar, April 30th 11am - noon
 - Next Missouri RAC meeting July 22nd in person/virtual
 - Meeting was adjourned at 10:55 am.